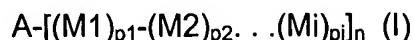


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-40 (Canceled)

41. (Amended) A hair composition, comprising, in an acceptable medium, at least one polymer having a star structure chosen from structures of formula (I):



in which:

A is chosen from polyfunctional centers having a functionality n;

$[(M1)_{p1}-(M2)_{p2} \dots (Mi)_{pj}]$ represents a branch comprising at least one polymerized monomeric unit Mi having a polymerization index pj ;

n is an integer greater than or equal to 2;

~~i is greater than or equal to 2;~~

pj is greater than or equal to 2;

~~the there are at least two branches, which~~ may be identical or different; and

said at least two branches are grafted covalently to A;

wherein said at least one polymerized monomeric unit Mi comprised by at least one of said at least two branches is chosen from polymerized monomeric units Mk , which may be identical or different, wherein a homopolymer formed by the corresponding polymerized monomeric units Mk has a Tg of greater than or equal to 10°C; and

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

wherein said at least one polymerized monomeric unit Mi contained by at least one of said at least two branches is chosen from polymerized monomeric units Mj, which may be identical or different, wherein a homopolymer formed by the corresponding polymerized monomeric units Mj has a Tg of less than or equal to 10°C.

42. (Original) A composition according to claim 41, wherein said at least one polymerized monomeric unit Mi chosen from polymerized monomeric units Mk is present in an amount ranging from 55 to 95 percent by weight relative to the total weight of the polymerized monomeric units Mi.

43. (Original) A composition according to claim 41, wherein said at least one polymerized monomeric unit Mi chosen from polymerized monomeric units Mj is present in an amount ranging from 5 to 45 percent by weight relative to the total weight of the polymerized monomeric units Mi.

44. (Original) A composition according to claim 44, wherein said at least one agent which is able to form a film.

45. (Original) A composition according to claim 44, wherein said at least one agent is chosen from plasticizing agents and coalescence agents.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

46. (Original) A composition according to claim 41, wherein said at least one polymer is present in an amount ranging from 1 to 95 percent by weight, on a dry basis, with respect to the total weight of said composition.

47. (Original) A composition according to claim 46, wherein the range is from 1 to 50 percent by weight.

48. (Original) A composition according to claim 46, wherein the range is from 1 to 20 percent by weight.

49. (Original) A composition according to claim 41, wherein said at least one polymer is present in said acceptable medium containing at least one phase chosen from aqueous phases, organic phases, and aqueous/organic phases.

50. (Original) A composition according to claim 49, wherein said at least one phase is chosen from alcoholic and aqueous/alcoholic phases.

51. (Original) A composition according to claim 49, wherein said at least one polymer is dissolved or dispersed in said at least one phase.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

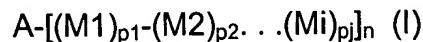
1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

52. (Original) A composition according to claim 41, wherein said composition has a form chosen from sprays, lacquers, foams, creams, gels, emulsions, lotions, and waxes.

53. (Canceled)

54. (Amended) A composition according to claim [53] 41, wherein said form is a composition for treating and/or fixing the hair.

55. (Amended) A process for retaining or shaping the hair, comprising applying to said hair a composition, comprising, in an acceptable medium, at least one polymer having a star structure chosen from structures of formula (i):



in which:

A is chosen from polyfunctional centers having a functionality n;

$[(M_1)_{p_1} - (M_2)_{p_2} \dots (M_i)_{p_j}]$ represents a branch comprising at least one polymerized monomeric unit M_i having a polymerization index p_j ;

n is an integer greater than or equal to 2;

~~i is greater than or equal to 2;~~

p_j is greater than or equal to 2;

~~the there are at least two branches, which~~ may be identical or different; and

said at least two branches are grafted covalently to A;

wherein said at least one polymerized monomeric unit Mi comprised by at least one of said at least two branches is chosen from polymerized monomeric units Mk, which may be identical or different, wherein a homopolymer formed by the corresponding polymerized monomeric units Mk has a Tg of greater than or equal to 10°C; and

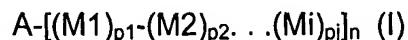
wherein said at least one polymerized monomeric unit Mi contained by at least one of said at least two branches is chosen from polymerized monomeric units Mj, which may be identical or different, wherein a homopolymer formed by the corresponding polymerized monomeric units Mj has a Tg of less than or equal to 10°C.

56. (Original) A process according to claim 55, wherein said at least one polymerized monomeric unit Mi chosen from polymerized monomeric units Mk is present in an amount ranging from 55 to 95 percent by weight relative to the total weight of the polymerized monomeric units Mi.

57. (Original) A process according to claim 55, wherein said at least one polymerized monomeric unit Mi chosen from polymerized monomeric units Mj is present in an amount ranging from 5 to 45 percent by weight relative to the total weight of the polymerized monomeric units Mi.

58. (Original) A process according to claim 55, wherein said hair is human hair.

59. (Amended) A process for preparing a styling product, comprising introducing, in an acceptable medium, at least one polymer in an amount effective for retaining and/or shaping hair, wherein said at least one polymer having a star structure chosen from structures of formula (I):



in which:

A is chosen from polyfunctional centers having a functionality n;

$[(M_1)_{p_1}-(M_2)_{p_2}\dots(M_i)_{p_j}]$ represents a branch comprising at least one polymerized monomeric unit M_i having a polymerization index p_j ;

n is an integer greater than or equal to 2;

~~i is greater than or equal to 2;~~

p_j is greater than or equal to 2;

~~the there are~~ at least two branches, which may be identical or different; and

said at least two branches are grafted covalently to A;

wherein said at least one polymerized monomeric unit M_i comprised by at least one of said at least two branches is chosen from polymerized monomeric units M_k , which may be identical or different, wherein a homopolymer formed by the corresponding polymerized monomeric units M_k has a Tg of greater than or equal to 10°C; and

wherein said at least one polymerized monomeric unit M_i contained by at least one of said at least two branches is chosen from polymerized monomeric units M_j ,

which may be identical or different, wherein a homopolymer formed by the corresponding polymerized monomeric units M_j has a T_g of less than or equal to 10°C.

60. (Original) A process according to claim 59, wherein said at least one polymerized monomeric unit M_i chosen from polymerized monomeric units M_k is present in an amount ranging from 55 to 95 percent by weight relative to the total weight of the polymerized monomeric units M_i.

61. (Original) A process according to claim 59, wherein said at least one polymerized monomeric unit M_i chosen from polymerized monomeric units M_j is present in an amount ranging from 5 to 45 percent by weight relative to the total weight of the polymerized monomeric units M_i.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com